

What is claimed is:

1 1. A substantially planar pad support for placement on
2 an elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp, comprising: a
3 hub having an aperture with a predetermined geometry
4 substantially centrally disposed therein, said hub having a
5 plurality of lobes radiating from the perimeter thereof,
6 said lobes each having distal ends at a predetermined radius
7 from a center of said aperture.

1 2. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, wherein
3 said aperture is sized to loosely surround an elongated
4 member of a specific pipe or bar clamp.

1 3. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 2, wherein
3 said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a circle,
4 square, rectangle, and polygon.

1 4. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 3, wherein
3 said pad support is formed by one of the processes:
4 injection molding, and machining.

1 5. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 4, wherein
3 said pad support comprises a rib molded into at least one
4 of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.

1 6. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 5, wherein
3 said plurality of lobes comprises three lobes.

1 7. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 3, wherein
3 said elongated member comprises at least two sections of
4 pipe joined end-to-end to one another by a pipe coupling
5 having a predetermined outside diameter.

1 8. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 7, wherein
3 said aperture is sized to slip over said outside diameter of
4 said pipe coupling.

1 9. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, further
3 comprising: a layer of resilient material affixed to a face
4 of each of said lobes.

1 10. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 9, wherein
3 said layer of resilient material is inset into said face of
4 each of said lobes.

1 11. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 1, further
3 comprising means for securing said pad support to an
4 elongated member of said pipe clamp.

1 12. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 11,
3 wherein said means for securing said pad support comprises a
4 set screw.

1 13. The substantially planar pad support as recited in
2 claim 11, wherein said aperture is sized to loosely surround
3 an elongated member of a specific pipe or bar clamp.

1 14. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 12,
3 wherein said predetermined geometry comprises one of: a
4 circle, square, rectangle, and polygon.

1 15. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 14,
3 wherein said pad support is formed by one of the processes:
4 injection molding, and machining.

1 16. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 15,
3 wherein said pad support comprises a rib molded into at
4 least one of: said hub and said plurality of lobes.

1 17. The pad support for placement on an elongated
2 member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim 15,
3 wherein said plurality of lobes comprises three lobes.

1 18. A method for spacing the elongated member of a
2 pipe clamp above a surface of a work piece, the steps
3 comprising:

4 a) providing a pipe clamp having an elongated
5 member, a fixed jaw; and an adjustable jaw, at least
6 one of said fixed jaw, and said adjustable jaw
7 removably affixed to said elongated member;

8 b) providing a pad support comprising: a hub
9 having an aperture with a predetermined geometry
10 substantially centrally disposed therein, said hub

11 having a plurality of lobes radiating from the
12 perimeter thereof, said lobes each having a distal end;

13 c) removing one of said fixed jaw and said
14 adjustable jaw from said elongated member;

15 d) sliding said aperture of said pad support over
16 said elongated member;

17 e) replacing said removed one of said fixed jaw
18 and said adjustable jaw on said elongated member;

19 f) using said pipe clamp to clamp a work piece;
20 and

21 g) moving said pad support along said elongated
22 member to a desired position.

1 19. The method for spacing the elongated member of a
2 pipe clamp above a surface of a work piece as recited in
3 claim 18, wherein said pad support comprises means for
4 securing said pad support to said elongated member and said
5 steps further comprise:

6 h) after said pad support moving step (g),
7 securing said at least one pad support to said
8 elongated member.

1 20. A plurality of pad supports for placement on an
2 elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp, each of said
3 plurality of pad supports comprising: a hub having an
4 aperture with a predetermined geometry substantially
5 centrally disposed therein, said hub having a plurality of
6 lobes radiating from the perimeter thereof, said lobes each
7 having a distal ends at a predetermined radius from a center
8 of said aperture, at least two of said plurality of pad
9 supports differing from one another by at least one of the
10 parameters: predetermined geometries, and predetermined
11 radii.

1 21. The plurality of pad supports for placement on an
2 elongated member of a pipe or bar clamp as recited in claim
3 20, wherein at least one of said plurality of pad supports
4 comprises a different color from another of said plurality
5 of pad supports.